

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

---

A NEW GENUS OF AMPHIBIA SALIENTIA FROM  
DUTCH NEW GUINEA.

BY THOMAS BARBOUR.

---

Not long ago I procured a small series of Papuan reptiles taken by Mr. Pratt at Fak Fak, New Guinea. One of the two water snakes (*Natrix mairii*) showed a large swelling along its midregion and a single cut revealed the subject of this notice.

**Pomatops** gen. nov. *Engystomatidarum*.

Pupil large, round. Tongue large, much longer than broad, entire, free on sides and behind to a considerable extent. Palate with two feebly developed papillose ridges, curving forward, deep in the entrance of the oesophagus. Tympanum hidden. Fingers and toes quite free, their tips very slightly dilated. No precoracoids; no omosternum; sternum small and cartilaginous. Diapophyses of sacrum scarcely dilated at all. Terminal phalanges T shaped. The most interesting feature of this new form is the development of the eyelids. The upper eyelids are involved in a flap of skin extending for some distance anterior and posterior to the position of the eye. These flaps are sufficiently developed so that they may be laid down and thus completely cover the whole eye. Two semilunar shaped white spots one below the position of each eye give the creature the appearance of being open-eyed even when the folds of skin along the sides of the head are down and the eyes are thus quite hidden.

**Pomatops valvifera** sp. nov.

*Type*: A single example, well preserved. Coll. Mus. Comp. Zool. 2577.

Taken from the stomach of a specimen of *Natrix mairii* (Gray) from Fak Fak, Northwestern Dutch New Guinea. The snake was caught there by Mr. A. E. Pratt, the well known zoological collector.

Habit rather slender. Head short, snout not prominent, mouth rather small, eyes directed laterally. Limbs moderate; first finger shorter than second; outer toe longer than inner; subarticular tubercles very indistinct; metatarsal tubercles wanting. The hind limb being carried

forward along the body, the tibio-tarsal articulation reaches the posterior border of the eye. Skin of both upper and lower surfaces smooth. *Color*: Upper surface of body and limbs slaty gray with lighter marblings; lower surface ochraceous buff, varying to both a lighter and darker shade.

This curious and interesting find suffered a little by having been swallowed, in that it is difficult to reconstruct the exact condition of the sternum as well as the general habit in life. The fore limbs lay forward along the sides of the head and the hind limbs were stretched out behind so that the whole creature was pressed out longitudinally. The skin is only broken on the upper surface of one thigh, where it was evidently ripped by a tooth. The snake from which it was taken is a water loving form. There seems no reason to suppose that *Pomaptops* is a water frog. Burrowing habits are suggested by the protections to the eyes. This makes the tenth genus of Engystomatidae, so far as known confined to Papua.